Amendments to the Claims

In The Claims

Please cancel Claims 4 through 7 without prejudice.

Please add Claims 8 through 13 as follows:

1. (Original) An apparatus for implementing phase-contrast or modulation-contrast observation on microscopes with the aid of a modulator arranged in each pupil plane in the observation beam path and containing at least one layer modifying the phase or amplitude, and of a stop arranged in the illumination beam path,

wherein the modulator is mounted tiltably.

- 2. (Original) The apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the layers of the modulator are configured in such a way that the greatest possible phase shift is already achieved by a slight tilt.
- 3. (Original) The apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the layers comprise glass plates of various glasses.

4 - 7. (Cancelled)

- 8. (New) The apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the modulator possesses a defined variable layer configuration.
- 9. (New) The apparatus as defined in Claim 2, wherein the modulator possesses a defined variable layer configuration.
- 10. (New) The apparatus as defined in Claim 3, wherein the modulator possesses a defined variable layer configuration.

11. (New) An apparatus for implementing phase-contrast or modulation-contrast observation on microscopes with the aid of a modulator arranged in each pupil plane in the observation beam path and containing at least one layer modifying the phase or amplitude, and of a stop arranged in the illumination beam path,

wherein for phase shifting, optical polarization means in combination with retardation plates are present.

12. (New) An apparatus for implementing phase-contrast or modulation-contrast observation on microscopes with the aid of a modulator arranged in each pupil plane in the observation beam path and containing at least one layer modifying the phase or amplitude, and of a stop arranged in the illumination beam path,

wherein various modulators are arranged on a carrier in a manner introducible into the beam path, and are selectably mounted, tiltably individually or tiltably together with the carrier, on that carrier.

13. (New) A method for implementing a defined phase shift in the implementation of phase-contrast or modulation-contrast observation on microscopes with the aid of a modulator arranged in each pupil plane in the observation beam path and containing at least one layer modifying the phase or amplitude, and of a stop arranged in the illumination beam path,

wherein the modulator is tilted.